Pueblo
exchange
A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Spring 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

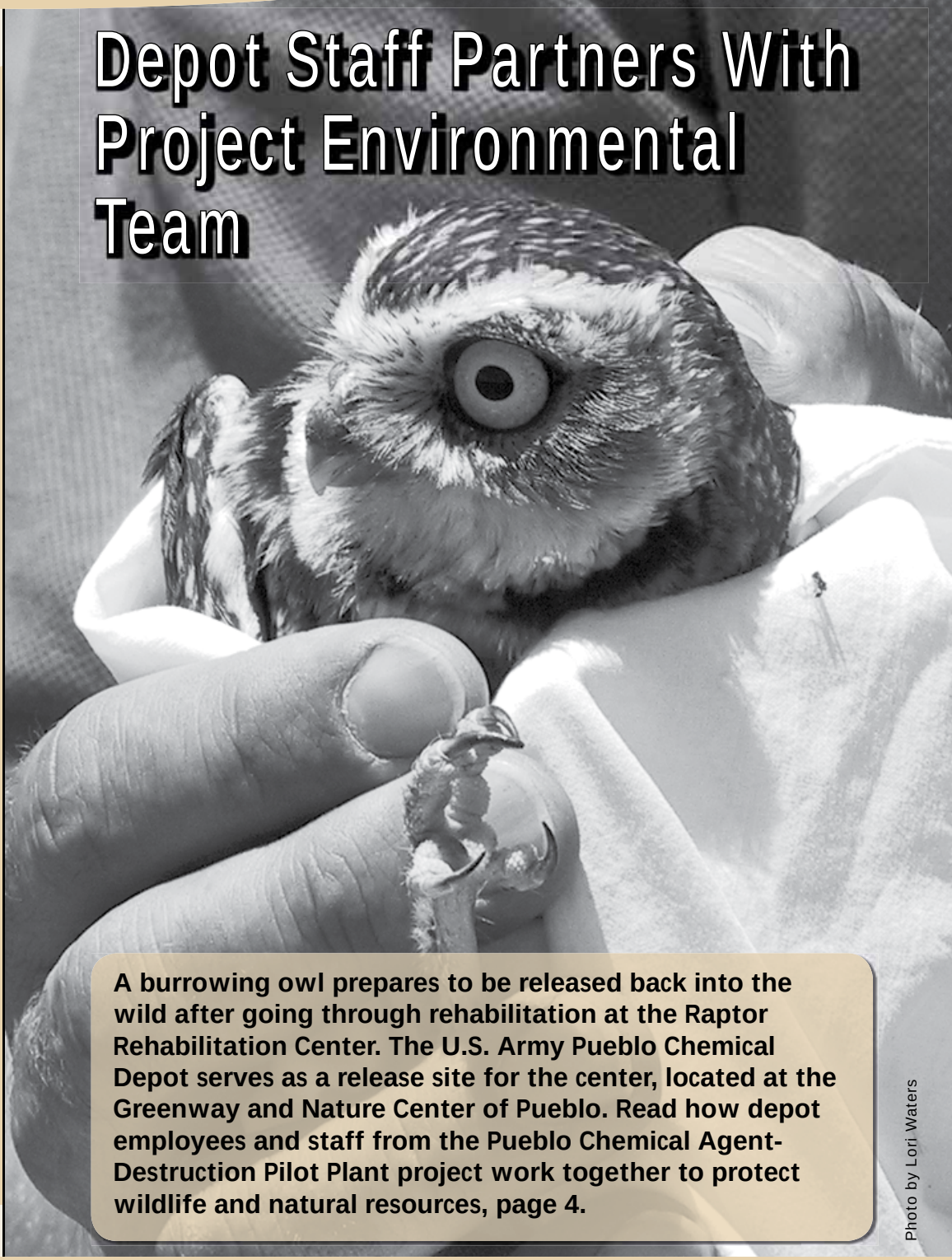
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
104 West B Street
Pueblo, CO 81003
(719) 546-0400
PuebloOutreach@bah.com
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F
Other hours by appointment

U.S. Army
Pueblo Chemical Depot
Public Affairs
(719) 549-4135

Bechtel Pueblo
Public Communications
(719) 546-0400

www.pmacwa.army.mil

Depot Staff Partners With Project Environmental Team



A burrowing owl prepares to be released back into the wild after going through rehabilitation at the Raptor Rehabilitation Center. The U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot serves as a release site for the center, located at the Greenway and Nature Center of Pueblo. Read how depot employees and staff from the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project work together to protect wildlife and natural resources, page 4.

Photo by Lori Waters

OPSEC Completed April 4, 2007

Program Manager Leaves Legacy of Partnership and Progress

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Michael Parker retired his post as program manager of Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) on April 3, 2007, concluding more than 37 years of distinguished government service.

"Mike Parker has successfully guided the chemical demilitarization program in Pueblo and has gained the respect and support of the Pueblo community," said Citizens' Advisory Commission Chair John Klomp. "He has ensured that the process is open and that citizens will have adequate input before decisions are made. He is the prototype of a modern leader who inspires by example. His focus has always been on safety for the community, depot personnel and the workers at the site. He has also been responsible for making sure the environment is protected as the program evolved."

Parker's tenure as program manager began in December 1996. Since that time, he helped the program achieve many milestones, upholding his commitment to openly involving the communities of Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky., in the chemical weapons destruction process. Under his leadership, the program reached technology decisions, began construction of the pilot plants, developed more cost-efficient pilot plant designs and secured program funding.

"I am grateful to both communities for their support and dedication to this program – their contributions have been key to moving the program forward," said Parker. "The positive partnerships that we've forged over the past 10 years have made ACWA one of the most memorable projects that I've worked."

Photo by Sandy Romero

Michael Parker, Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (right), enjoys a lighthearted moment with Greg Severance, director of Pueblo County Public Works (seated), and John Klomp, chairman of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, at a meeting in Pueblo. Parker retired his post on April 3.

Parker was well suited to take on the ACWA program; his career had previously spanned several key Department of Defense chemical and biological weapons programs. He was instrumental in the formation of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command to oversee research, development and acquisition of chemical and biological defense equipment and to ensure worldwide commitment to chemical weapons demilitarization and compliance with the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention. Parker played a key role in developing a Joint Service Agreement for unified management of the chemical and biological defense programs between all military departments. He was pivotal in leading a panel of senior leaders dedicated to standardizing chemical and biological defense equipment across the Department of Defense and within NATO.

Most recently he served as director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. Other previous positions included duty as technical director of the U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center (now known as the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center); acting project manager for Binary Munitions and Chemical Munitions; and science advisor to the commanding general, U.S. Army Japan.

"The Pueblo community and the nation will continue to benefit from Mike's efforts to destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles that pose a threat to national security, and are an ever present threat to the safety of the many communities that store the weapons," Klomp said.

Acting Program Manager Named

Kevin Flamm has been appointed acting Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives. Flamm previously served as the program manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. The ACWA program is headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and is the Department of Defense program responsible for the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles in Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky.

Advisory Commission Recommends On-Site Treatment of Hydrolysate

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

The Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) provided a formal recommendation on Feb. 14 to the to the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program in favor of on-site treatment of hydrolysate.

Hydrolysate is the byproduct of the neutralization process that will be used to dispose of the chemical weapons stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.

"The CAC has recommended on-site treatment of hydrolysate as the safest and most economical way to complete the chemical weapons destruction process," said John Klomp, commission chair. "The commission believes there would be very little, if any, savings by shipping off site. The potential litigation and political boundary issues that could emerge if off-site shipment was approved would cost additional dollars and slow the momentum of the project."

The CAC's formal recommendation was prompted by the release of two independent studies that were commissioned by ACWA to assess the risks and potential cost savings associated with off-site treatment. Both studies indicate that no significant advantages will be gained by shipping the hydrolysate to a treatment disposal facility.

The first study assessed the feasibility and public perceptions of the issue and was conducted by Noblis, formerly known as Mitretek Systems, which is a nonprofit scientific research and engineering corporation based in Virginia. The study cited permitting issues and potential political opposition or litigation as key findings against off-site shipment.

The second study was completed by government Lean Six Sigma experts. Lean Six Sigma is a structured methodology that uses statistical analysis to gain knowledge and information for making sound business decisions.

The Lean Six Sigma report also recommended that hydrolysate be processed on site in Pueblo, stating that without the support of the community, off-site shipment would not save time or money. The report provided a statistical analysis of existing data to determine the best treatment option for hydrolysate.

"ACWA will continue to study both off-site and on-site treatment options," said Bill Pehlivanian, deputy program manager of ACWA. "We have an obligation to the taxpayers to make sure we are spending their money wisely and efficiently."

To review the reports in their entirety, visit the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 104 West B Street in Pueblo. A copy of the commission's formal recommendation can be found on the ACWA Web site at http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/co/public_involvement.htm.

Power Comes to Pilot Plant Site

Workers from Gash Electric pour red concrete to encase an electrical duct bank system. The underground system will be used to transmit power and communication throughout the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site. Red concrete is used to help identify underground utilities in the unlikely event an excavation operation comes across the duct bank in the future.

Photo by John Schlatter

Environmental Staff Works With Depot to Protect Wildlife, Natural and Cultural Resources

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

While the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) is being built, the wildlife and plants that take up residence on U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot grounds are in good hands.

Max Canestorp is a natural and cultural resource manager for the Colorado Fish & Wildlife Assistance Office, a division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which was established at the depot in 1997. His job is to ensure the health and well-being of wildlife and their natural habitats. In doing so, Canestorp works closely with PCAPP Environmental Scientist Chris Hambric and other members of the PCAPP environmental team.

Photo by Lori Waters

Don Haller of the Raptor Rehabilitation Center and Max Canestorp of the Colorado Fish & Wildlife Assistance Office prepare to release a burrowing owl that was rescued when it was very young. The owl is now ready to live on its own.

Raptor Protection Program

Across the nation, a major problem exists with raptors getting electrocuted on utility poles. "Part of the problem on military bases is that utility systems from the 1940s are still in use," said Canestorp. One of the solutions is to retrofit existing poles. "This is one of the projects I've been working on for 10 years, and there is still some work to do," he said.

Photo by Sandy Romero

Electrical poles on the depot have been retrofitted with raptor protection, as shown here (upside down V-shaped perches). Employees on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project worked with Canestorp to install raptor protection on all high mast lighting.

"For our part, PCAPP implemented raptor protection on all our high mast lighting," said Hambric.

In addition, the depot is a release site for the Raptor Rehabilitation Center, a function of the Greenway and Nature Center of Pueblo. Rehabilitated raptors such as golden eagles and burrowing owls are often brought to the depot to be released back into the wild once they're healthy enough to make it on their own.

Migratory Bird Protection

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects most birds in the United States except for non-native species like the pigeon and non-migratory game birds like quail. It is a violation of the act for the public, state or federal agencies to harm or kill migratory birds.

Sometimes, migratory birds take up residence in the depot's vacant buildings. "A great horned owl might be nesting in a building, so legally no one can take actions that might harm or destroy the birds, eggs or nest, including demolition of the building," said Canestorp. "We work with the depot to ensure the mission is supported while at the same time, protecting the species."

According to Hambric, when the Northwest Access Road was being built, PCAPP officials were conscious of a great horned owl nesting in a tree adjacent to the road. "Max worked with us during the building of the road to make sure nothing affected its nesting activities or while it was raising its young," she said.

Tamarisk Control

Tamarisk, or salt cedar, is a noxious shrub that is native to Western states and is slowly taking over wetland areas. Tamarisk soaks up a lot of water (some estimates say 200 gallons per day) while crowding out other healthy, indigenous plants. The tamarisk control project, currently in progress, calls for aggressive action. This past fall, an aerial application of herbicide was sprayed over extensive, dense tamarisk.

During tamarisk control activities, Canestorp kept project officials apprised of when the area was to be sprayed. "We are in constant communication, not only for the well-being of plants and wildlife, but for the health and safety of our staff," Hambric said.

Plague Research

For the past several years, the depot has been supporting plague research on prairie dog colonies. "The depot's been very supportive of these types of activities," said Canestorp. "Research is just being completed and soon, we will know more about prairie dogs and plague." The depot has one of the largest prairie dog colonies, about 2,000 acres, in the eastern plains of Colorado.

Photo by Sandy Romero

Tamarisk threatens the depot's water supply and crowds out indigenous plants. This past fall, a herbicide was sprayed to control its growth.

Photo by Sandy Romero

Max Canestorp is the natural and cultural resource manager for the Colorado Fish and Wildlife Assistance Office, located at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. Max works closely with the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) environmental team to ensure the health and well-being of plants and animals as the PCAPP plant is being built.

Any and all research is shared with the environmental team. "Max will let us know if plague is in the area where we are working," said Hambric. "He sends us reminders about prairie dogs if he suspects plague, or if there's a nest of red foxes or bats in the area where we are working."

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include both historic (from settlement of the land by Euro-Americans until the present) and pre-historic (Native-American) land use. While grading and grubbing activities were going on during Stage 1 construction, archaeologists walked the ground to survey it for cultural significance, according to Hambric.

Canestorp plays an instrumental role in making recommendations on activities and programs about ways in which natural resources can be protected during the construction process. The programs listed here have been implemented out of a genuine interest and desire to protect the natural resources and surroundings of those who inhabit it.

For more information on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife program at the depot, contact Max Canestorp at (719) 549-4228.

Battelle Memorial Institute Brings "Business of Innovation" to Pueblo Pilot Plant

By MIGUEL MONTEVERDE
Bechtel National Inc.

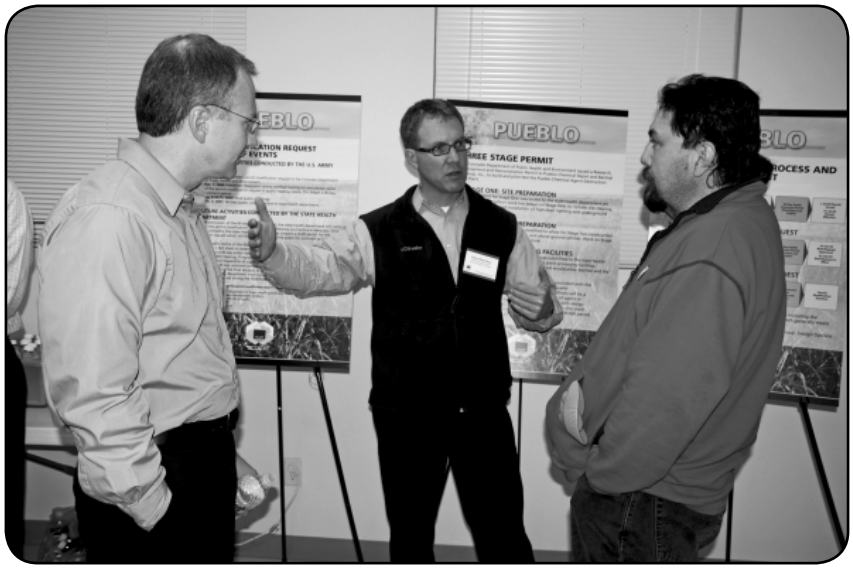


Photo by Sandy Romero

Battelle employee and Bechtel Pueblo Team Environmental Manager John McArthur explains the permitting process to a Boone, Colo., citizen. Permitting Manager Ron Entz is at left.

One of four companies that make up the Bechtel Pueblo Team, Battelle Memorial Institute has been tackling tough technical challenges in the national interest since World War II when it was asked to help design better armor. Battelle researchers and scientists have been providing innovative solutions to help protect people, the country and the environment for more than 75 years. Its role on the Bechtel Pueblo Team is to provide environmental management, laboratory services and science and technology support to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Battelle's John McArthur is Bechtel Pueblo's environmental manager. Earlier, McArthur was the first environmental manager for the Aberdeen, Md., chemical agent destruction project, which held its formal closing ceremony March 12. "There are a number of Aberdeen veterans here on the Pueblo job – both Battelle and Bechtel," said McArthur. "We are very proud to have been part of that successful team and we're working hard to bring the same safe, environmentally sound and innovative science to the Pueblo community."

Dan Taylor, Aberdeen's chief scientist during agent operations through closure, is now Battelle's newly appointed chief scientist for both the Pueblo and Blue Grass chemical agent destruction projects. Agreeing with McArthur, Taylor said, "At Aberdeen, conscientious workers, using innovative technologies, safely disposed of the agent stockpile. I am proud that the project established proactive safety and environmental compliance programs that resulted in the successful completion of the project. What we learned there gives us a body of hands-on, practical experience that is already benefiting the Pueblo and Blue Grass projects."

Overseeing all of the company's demilitarization work throughout the United States is Battelle's manager of chemical demilitarization plant operations, Ray Bills, who recently told the Aberdeen group, "You have done a very significant job here. Within the demil community, you've established a tremendous reputation."

Bechtel Pueblo's laboratory manager is Battelle's Walt Waybright. While most of Battelle's lab work on the project thus far has involved risk reduction testing in Battelle's Ohio facilities, Waybright will eventually supervise the lab to be built on the Pueblo site. The completion of plant construction and the start of systemization will see the Battelle staff ramp up from 11 currently on site to some 85 when the plant goes into full operation.

With 20,000 employees worldwide, Columbus, Ohio-based Battelle is the world's largest nonprofit independent research and development organization. Established as a nonprofit charitable trust, founder Gordon Battelle specified that a share of the Institute's net earnings be given "to such charitable institutions, needy enterprises or persons ... as in their judgment will do the greatest good for humanity." Inspired by this vision, the company continues to this day actively supporting and promoting science and math education through a nationwide scholarship program that has included students at both Colorado State University–Pueblo and Pueblo Community College.

Employee Corner

By SANDY ROMERO, Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Resident Engineering Manager New to Pueblo, Not Project

Photo by Sandy Romero

Mark Myatt, a 21-year Bechtel employee, will head a design team of 20 engineers and designers by the end of spring.

As the design work for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant winds down, teams in San Francisco and Frederick, Md., will be phased out and a resident engineering team will be established here in Pueblo. Heading the team is Mark Myatt.

Myatt, who ran the design offices in Frederick, has worked on the project for 20 months, traveling between Pueblo, San Francisco and Maryland. By the end of spring, approximately 20 designers and engineers will be established here in Pueblo.

After working for Bechtel for 5 ½ years, Myatt left the company to pursue his mechanical engineering degree from California State University at Chico. After graduating, he re-joined Bechtel and has worked on a number of projects including a Defense Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina and a Plutonium Recovery Modification Project for Rocky Flats near Denver.

He and his family purchased a home in Colorado City, a few miles south of Pueblo. He has three boys, ages 16, 12 and 10, and a daughter, 20, who is a student at the University of Idaho.

Regarding his new job, he says, "From day one, the project has been very people-oriented. If we need an answer or a resolution to a problem, we get support right away."

Contracting Team Works Together On and Off Site

Photo by Sandy Romero

Emil Maslanka, left, and Tom Artioli are the contracting officers for the chemical weapons destruction project.

Tom Artioli and Emil Maslanka make up the contracting team for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project. Artioli lives in Pueblo and works at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. Maslanka lives in Illinois, but visits Pueblo at least once a month to work on contracting issues.

"As the administrative contracting officer, my job is to make sure the systems contractor performs their scope of work," said Artioli. "If there is a necessary change in the contract scope, I make a recommendation to the procuring contracting officer (Maslanka) and together, we decide the best approach."

Maslanka works for the Army Sustainment Command, which has the overall responsibility for project contracting. Artioli, on the other hand, works for the Army Corps of Engineers. Together, they manage the funds, schedule and scope allocated to Bechtel Pueblo Team.

Artioli is fairly new to Pueblo; he will have lived here a year this summer. He lives in Pueblo West with his wife and three children, ages 21, 16 and 13. He has a bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa.

Maslanka has spent most of his life in Illinois, where he lives with his wife, a retired school teacher. He has a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University.

James B. Martin Heads State Health Department

By SANDY ROMERO
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter has appointed James B. Martin to be the executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Martin, who most recently served as the executive director of Western Resource Advocates, a Boulder-based environmental law and policy organization, has served on numerous commissions and divisions managing a multitude of public health and environmental programs.

The health department is responsible for enforcing the hazardous waste regulations in the state of Colorado and evaluates the Army's and Bechtel's activities for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Photo courtesy CDPHE

James B. Martin is the new executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
104 West B Street
Pueblo, CO 81003

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant
PCAPP
SAFETY SECURITY RELIABILITY